Quality Control Inspectors

What They Do

Quality Control Inspectors examine raw materials and finished manufactured products to ensure compliance with good manufacturing and laboratory practices. They use different types of inspection equipment such as force gauges, pin gauges, ring gauges, calipers, pressure gauges, rules and optical comparators to inspect materials in a manufacturing facility. Quality Control Inspectors keep close watch over critical equipment and instruments throughout their work shift. Inspectors use established procedures to select a representative sample of products in order to make sure adequate testing is done. They often send the products they inspect to other personnel, such as a microbiologist, to conduct additional tests. They may review blue prints and drawing specifications during the product inspection process.

Quality Control Inspectors must clearly explain and document inspection results and product deviations from accepted manufacturing standards. More experienced inspectors may analyze manufacturing failures and suggest potential solutions. They may write and update inspection procedures and checklists when needed. They are responsible for using and maintaining their test equipment and instruments in the proper fashion.

*Quality Control Inspectors in the biotech industry share characteristics of Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers. Detailed descriptions of this occupation may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) at online.onetcenter.org.*

Important skills, knowledge, and abilities include:

- Knowledge and ability to follow regulations pertaining to good manufacturing practices.
- Production and Processing – Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.
- Engineering and Technology – Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.
- Mathematics – Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- Quality Control Analysis – Conducting tests and inspections of products, services, or processes to evaluate quality or performance.
- Science – Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.
- Information Ordering – The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations.)
- Originality – The ability to come up with unusual or clever ideas about a given topic or situation, or to develop creative ways to solve a problem.

EDD Employment Development Department State of California

LMID Labor Market Information Division "Your Information Source"

Quality Control Inspectors

Training/Requirements

- High school diploma or Associate degree in biotechnology or health related field.
- Scientific background and from one to two years of experience in quality control systems.

A formal survey is not available; however, a review of job openings indicates California biotechnology employers usually require a significantly higher level of education for this occupation, a bachelor degree or higher, than required in other industries.

What's the California Job Outlook?

While the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not collect data on Quality Control Inspectors, the occupation listed below is found in the biotechnology industry and has similar duties. The California outlook and wage figures are drawn from all industries and represent an occupation comparable to Quality Control Inspectors.

Standard Occupational Classification	Estimated Number of Workers 2002	Estimated Number of Workers 2012	Average Annual Openings	2005 Wage Range (per hour)
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers				
51-9061	57,400	62,700	1,840	$9.14 to $18.28

These figures do not include self-employment.
***Average annual openings** include new jobs plus openings due to separations.*
Source: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov , Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.

Additional Sources of Information

American Society of Quality
www.asq.org

Occupational Information Network (O*NET)
http://online.onetcenter.org

Biotechnology Careers

Employment Development Department
State of California

LMID
Labor Market Information Division
"Your Information Source"